Mr. P. A. Kasim: Whether the stores distribute goods to the public or to the members, in order to deal in cloth, they must have a licence.

President: Order, order. Is there not a Government of India rule with regard to the matter?

Mr. P. A. Kasim: Yes, Sir.

President: In regard to this distribution which is made at the instance of the Government and in regard to the materials supplied, this Government have to keep to the rules and regulations prescribed by the Government of India. I take it that the department acted in pursuance of those rules.

Mr. K. C Chandy: May I know whether the Society was advised of this legal impediment?

Mr. P. A. Kasim: I am not sure. I think it has been.

President: What is the difficulty about this? Why should they not apply for a licence?

Mr. K. C. Chandy: The Society was not apprised of it.

Mr. P. A. Kasim: If the Co-operative society wants to deal in cloth, it must take out a licence.

Licence for conversion of tapioca into tapioca flour.

29. * **Mr. K. A. Raman Pillai** (*Municipal Councils*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) the number of applications for licence for conversion of tapioca into tapioca flour after the recent removal of the ban in that behalf; and

(*b*) the number of licences granted so far?

Mr. P. A. Kasim: (*a*) 120.

(*b*) Nil. Licences will be issued only after particulars of the procedure for the administration of the Order are settled.

Consolations of religion to patients in Hospitals.

30. * **Mr. K. C. Chandy**: Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether they or the Medical Department have issued any orders or circulars to the effect that patients should not be allowed the consolations of their religion in the Hospitals;

(*b*) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(*c*) if the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will they be pleased to place on the table a copy thereof?

Dr. S. John (*Surgeon General*): (*a*) No.

(*b*) & (*c*) In view of the answer to part (*a*) these do not arise.

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